

Good Afternoon

First of all, I would like to say how honored I was to be asked to represent the staff of the Library of Michigan at this event. Working with Christie for me personally has been a great experience and I am proud of the many accomplishments the state library has achieved under her leadership. I appreciate having the opportunity to publicly thank her on behalf of the staff.

As we have heard many people say today, Christie has had an important impact on library service across the state. What may be less well known, is the impact she has had on the staff of the Library of Michigan and the state library itself.

In the 5 years Christie has been here she has lead the library and the staff through tumultuous administrative changes within state government. As part of that, she had to interview for her position 3 times. That she was hired all three times is a testament to her knowledge and abilities.

When severe budget shortages threatened both jobs and services, she took a strong stance against staff layoffs as a solution, and a balanced approach to limiting resources but maintaining high service levels.

She was also instrumental in engineering the good things; celebrating with us, the library's 175th anniversary and the construction of a rare book complex that some doubted would ever open.

She has strongly supported her staff in many ways, from advocating for flextime to instituting a tuition reimbursement program to encourage staff members to pursue their Master in Library Science. Even the small stuff like casual days are much appreciated.

Christie brought strong leadership and a can-do attitude to the Library of Michigan, and dealt with all things with a sense of grace and style. We will also remember her for her creativity, sense of humor and personal interest in those around her.

While I have no doubt that the staff of the Kansas State Library will have to work for it, they are benefiting from our loss. We wish Christie well in all her future endeavors and we will miss her.

Thank You.